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Security Council

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Letter dated 21 December 2017 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014) addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014), containing an account of the Committee's activities from 1 January to 31 December 2017. The report, which was approved by the Committee, is being submitted in accordance with the note by the President of the Security Council of 29 March 1995 (S/1995/234).

I should be grateful if the present letter and the report were brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Koro **Bessho**
Chair
Security Council Committee established
pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014)

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Report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014)

I. Introduction

1. The present report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014) covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2017.

2. The Bureau of the Committee consisted of Koro Bessho (Japan) as Chair and the representative of Ukraine as Vice-Chair.

II. Background

3. By its resolution 2140 (2014), the Security Council imposed an asset freeze and a travel ban, for an initial period of one year from the date of the adoption of the resolution (26 February 2014), on individuals and entities engaging in or providing support for acts that threatened the peace, security or stability of Yemen. Exemptions to the measures were also included. The Council established a committee to designate such individuals and entities and to oversee the implementation of the measures and a panel of experts to assist the Committee in carrying out its mandate. The Committee was also tasked with encouraging a dialogue between the Committee and interested Member States, in particular those in the region, and directed to cooperate with other relevant Council sanctions committees, in particular the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities. On 7 November 2014, the Committee designated the former President of Yemen, Ali Abdullah Saleh, and two commanders of the Houthi Ansarallah movement as subject to the asset freeze and travel ban.

4. By its resolution 2216 (2015), the Security Council renewed the asset freeze and travel ban for a further period of one year and also imposed a targeted arms embargo against designated individuals and entities. Inspection provisions were included in the context of the enforcement of the arms embargo, including requirements with regard to reporting to the Committee by any Member State when it undertakes an inspection, and additional reporting if prohibited items for supply, sale or transfer are found. The Council broadened the designation criteria to include violations of the targeted arms embargo as well as obstruction of the delivery of humanitarian assistance to Yemen or access to, or distribution of, humanitarian assistance in Yemen. It designated the leader of the Houthi Ansarallah movement, Abdulmalik al-Houthi, and the former President's son, Ahmed Ali Abdullah Saleh, as subject to the sanctions measures. The mandate of the Panel of Experts was also broadened to include monitoring the implementation of the arms embargo, and the size of the Panel increased from four experts to five as a result. By its resolution 2266 (2016), the Council further renewed the asset freeze and travel ban, as well as the mandate of the Panel of Experts.

5. The mandate of the Panel of Experts was most recently extended until 28 March 2018 by the Council in its resolution 2342 (2017), by which the Council also renewed until 26 February 2018 the asset freeze and travel ban.

6. Further background information on the Yemen sanctions regime can be found in the previous annual reports of the Committee.

III. Summary of the activities of the Committee

7. The Committee met four times in informal consultations, on 27 January, 18 April, 28 April and 31 July, in addition to conducting its work through written procedures.

8. During the informal consultations held on 27 January, the Committee heard a presentation by the Panel of Experts on its final report, submitted in accordance with paragraph 6 of resolution 2266 (2016), and discussed the recommendations contained therein.

9. During the informal consultations held on 18 April, the Committee heard a presentation by the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Yemen, the World Food Programme Country Director in Yemen and the Coordinator of the Panel of Experts on Yemen, on humanitarian access through Red Sea ports in Yemen.

10. During the informal consultations held on 28 April, the Committee heard a presentation by the Panel of Experts on its activities since the presentation of its final report for 2016 to the Committee and on its programme of work.

11. During the informal consultations held on 31 July, the Committee heard a presentation by the Coordinator of the Panel of Experts on the Panel's midterm update, submitted in accordance with paragraph 6 of resolution 2342 (2017), and discussed the recommendations contained therein.

12. On 8 March, the Committee amended its guidelines for the conduct of its work to reflect the provisions of resolution 2342 (2017).

13. On 29 March, pursuant to paragraph 19 (e) of resolution 2140 (2014), the Chair of the Committee briefed the Security Council on the activities of the Committee in consultations.

14. In 2017, the Committee received one implementation report from a Member State. Furthermore, the Committee received 30 inspection reports from the United Nations Verification and Inspection Mechanism for Yemen, established pursuant to resolution 2216 (2015).

15. The Committee sent 11 communications to Member States and other stakeholders with reference to the implementation of the sanctions measures.

IV. Exemptions

16. Exemptions to the asset freeze are outlined in paragraphs 12 to 14 of resolution 2140 (2014).

17. Exemptions to the travel ban are outlined in paragraph 16 of resolution 2140 (2014).

18. During the reporting period, the Committee received one notification for a payment in relation to a contract entered into prior to the listing of an individual, pursuant to paragraph 14 of resolution 2140 (2014).

V. Sanctions list

19. The criteria for the designation of individuals and entities as subject to the asset freeze, travel ban and arms embargo are set out in paragraphs 17 and 18 of resolution 2140 (2014) and paragraph 19 of resolution 2216 (2015). The procedures for

requesting delisting are described in the Committee's guidelines for the conduct of its work.

20. As at the end of the reporting period, there were five individuals on the sanctions list of the Committee.

VI. Panel of Experts

21. On 27 January, in accordance with paragraph 6 of resolution 2266 (2016), the Panel of Experts provided its final report to the Committee (S/2017/81), which was transmitted to the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

22. On 23 March, following the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 2342 (2017) on 23 February, the Secretary-General appointed four experts to the Panel, with expertise in arms, finance, international humanitarian law and regional issues (see S/2017/245). On 13 April, a fifth expert was also appointed to the Panel with expertise in armed groups (see S/2017/324). The mandate of the Panel expires on 28 March 2018.

23. On 31 July, in accordance with paragraph 6 of resolution 2342 (2017), the Panel presented its midterm update to the Committee.

24. The Panel conducted visits to Belgium, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Jordan, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Yemen.

25. In pursuance of its mandate, the Panel of Experts, through the Secretariat, sent 203 letters to Member States, the Security Council, the Committee and international and national entities.

VII. Secretariat administrative and substantive support

26. The Security Council Affairs Division provided substantive and procedural support to the Chair and the members of the Committee. Advisory support was also provided to Member States to promote understanding of the sanctions regimes and facilitate the implementation of the sanctions measures. Induction briefings were also provided to incoming members of the Council to familiarize them with the specific issues relevant to the sanctions regime.

27. To support the Committee in its recruitment of well-qualified experts to serve on sanctions monitoring groups, teams and panels, a note verbale was sent to all Member States on 11 December to request the nomination of qualified candidates for membership of the roster of experts. In addition, a note verbale was sent to all Member States on 14 November notifying them of upcoming vacancies on the Panel of Experts and providing information on recruitment timelines, areas of expertise and pertinent requirements.

28. The Division continued to provide support to the Panel of Experts, conducting an induction for newly appointed members and assisting in the preparation of the Panel's final report submitted in January and during the preparation of its midterm update submitted in July.

29. The Panel participated in the fifth annual inter-panel coordination workshop, held in New York on 5 and 6 December, organized by the Secretariat. On 7 and 8 December, the Division, in cooperation with United Nations system partners,

conducted a workshop on investigative interview techniques for 10 experts from sanctions monitoring groups, teams and panels.

30. The Secretariat continued to update and maintain the Consolidated United Nations Security Council Sanctions List and the committee-specific sanctions lists in the six official languages and the three technical formats. Furthermore, the Secretariat implemented improvements concerning the effective utilization of and access to sanctions lists, including through the creation of links within list entries, as appropriate, to INTERPOL-United Nations Security Council Special Notices, as well as the development in English of the data model approved in 2011 by the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, as requested by the Security Council in paragraph 48 of resolution 2253 (2015).